

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A clearinghouse for providing verified entitlement information to at least one entitlement service provider, said clearinghouse comprising:
  - a database for receiving said entitlement information from an entitlement enterprise; a secure access point for authorized ones of said at least one entitlement service 5 provider to interactively access said clearinghouse;
  - a clearinghouse monitor for controlling access to said clearinghouse from said secure access point responsive to access information provided by said entitlement enterprise; and
  - a data structure for searching said database for entitlement information responsive to data provided by said entitlement service provider.
2. (Original) The clearinghouse of claim 1 further comprising:
  - a certification engine for providing certified results from said data structure search.
3. (Original) The clearinghouse of claim 1 further comprising:
  - an authorization communicated to said entitlement service provider responsive to said data structure finding said entitlement information and revised access information.
4. (Original) The clearinghouse of claim 1 further comprising:
  - an automated update resource for initiating communication with said entitlement enterprise to obtain revised entitlement information.
5. (Original) The clearinghouse of claim 1 wherein said secure access point includes a controlled access computer terminal for manually entering entitlement information provided by said entitlement enterprise.
6. (Original) The clearinghouse of claim 1 wherein said secure access point includes an interactive voice response (IVR) unit for facilitating verbal access to said clearinghouse.

7. (Original) The clearinghouse of claim 1 wherein said clearinghouse monitor compiles lists of entitlement information corresponding to a user responsive to a request from said user.

8. (Original) The clearinghouse of claim 1 wherein said clearinghouse monitor compiles lists of access information corresponding to ones of said at least one entitlement service provider responsive to a request from said ones of said at least one entitlement service provider.

9. (Original) A method for verifying entitlement, comprising the steps of:  
assembling a list of entitlement information from entitlement parties; authorizing access to said list of entitlement information based on corresponding access information;  
providing entitlement service suppliers with authorization secure access to said list;  
and  
searching said list for entitlement responsive to identification data provided by said entitlement service suppliers.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:  
issuing a code to said entitlement service suppliers indicative of results of said searching step.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:  
verifying entitlement for said entitlement service suppliers responsive to finding said entitlement in said searching step.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said assembling step comprises the steps of: accessing said list of entitlement information by said entitlement parties with authorization; and  
transmitting said entitlement information from said entitlement parties to said list of entitlement information.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said assembling step comprises the steps of:  
receiving entitlement information from said entitlement parties; and

manually entering said entitlement information onto said list of entitlement information.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:  
updating said list of entitlement information responsive to entitlement use information transmitted by said entitlement service suppliers with authorization

15. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:  
automatically establishing a communication connection between said list of entitlement information and said entitlement parties with authorization;  
obtaining revised entitlement information from said entitlement parties; and  
updating said list of entitlement information with said revised entitlement information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of compiling a list of entitlement information corresponding to a user; and presenting said list of entitlement information to said user.

17. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:  
compiling a list of access information corresponding to one of said entitlement service suppliers; and  
presenting said list of access information to said one of said entitlement service suppliers.

18. (Currently Amended) An entitlement authority for verifying entitlement information comprising: means for receiving said entitlement information and access information from an entitlement party;  
means for storing said entitlement information and said access information;  
means for securing an interface to said entitlement authority;  
means for authorizing access to said entitlement authority responsive to said access information;  
means for receiving data from an entitlement service provider for verifying entitlement;

~~code~~ means for searching said stored entitlement information using said data;  
means for providing results of said searching; and  
means for updating said stored entitlement information.

19. (Original) The entitlement authority of claim 18 wherein said means for receiving steps and said means for providing step include means for providing voice interaction with said entitlement authority.